



## Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

---

John Wesley Powell Student Research  
Conference

2006, 17th Annual JWP Conference

---

Apr 8th, 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM

# Susan Glaspell's Alison's House: Research Challenges and Issues

Theatre History II

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Sara Freeman, Faculty Advisor

*Illinois Wesleyan University*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

---

History II, Theatre and Freeman, Faculty Advisor, Sara, "Susan Glaspell's Alison's House: Research Challenges and Issues" (2006). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 1.  
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2006/posters2/1>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@iwu.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@iwu.edu).

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Poster Presentations P82, P84, P86, P88

**SUSAN GLASPELL'S ALISON'S HOUSE:  
RESEARCH CHALLENGES AND ISSUES**

Theatre History II and Sara Freeman\*  
School of Theatre Arts, Illinois Wesleyan University

Susan Glaspell's last, Pulitzer-prize winning play *Alison's House* seems initially to be "the Emily Dickinson play" with its absent title character inspired, as it partly is, by the "myth of Amherst." But researching the play for production requires moving beyond the textual/biographical connection and considering historical, sociological, and emotional factors that make this play a forgotten example of classic American realism on par with the work of Eugene O'Neill. Four examples of research projects undertaken in the spring 2006 Theatre History II class about *Alison's House* will be presented, with topics concerning actress Eva La Gallienne and her Civic Repertory Company, which staged the first production of *Alison's House*, the work of the Provincetown Players, Eugene O'Neill and other writers who were Glaspell's contemporaries, the roles and expectations for 19th century women that shape the attitudes represented in this play, and the historical moment of the turn-of-the century when the play is set.